



County of Los Angeles  
**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

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DAVID E. JANSSEN  
Chief Administrative Officer

August 24, 2004

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**PROPOSITION 218 ASSESSMENTS  
REQUEST FOR DELEGATED AUTHORITY TO CAST BALLOTS  
(ALL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

Delegate to the Chief Administrative Office (CAO) the responsibility to cast ballots for the County of Los Angeles (County) in support of or in opposition to special benefit assessment districts up to \$5,000 annually per assessment, in accordance with Board policies and as set by future Board actions, and inform the Board annually of all ballots cast.

**PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

As a result of Proposition 218, the property owned by government agencies, including Los Angeles County, became subject to assessment by various County and non-County assessment districts effective July 1, 1997. The County, like other property owners, is able to cast ballots supporting or opposing the assessments, and its ballots are weighted to reflect its proportionate share of the assessment. County Counsel has advised that your Board may legally authorize the CAO to cast ballots received for assessments on County-owned properties. Since the future number and types of these assessments cannot be predicted, we are proposing this change in policies and procedures to ensure that the County is able to respond to and protect the County's interests in a timely manner.

Board of Supervisors  
GLORIA MOLINA  
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE  
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY  
Third District

DON KNABE  
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

- When a benefit assessment ballot is received for an assessment district under your Board's jurisdiction, your Board will have already voted to impose the assessment on the properties in the district, including the County-owned properties. Therefore, under the delegated authority recommended herein, the CAO will return the ballots indicating support for the assessment.
- For assessments by non-County entities, an analysis will be required of the benefits to be derived by the County. Proposition 218 permits a property owner to be exempted from an assessment if no benefit will be received by the property. An analysis of whether to seek an exemption from an assessment will be made by the CAO and reviewed by the affected department(s) and County Counsel.
- When there is a sufficient benefit to the County, the CAO will notify the Board by memorandum of its intention to support the assessment. When the total amount of the assessment(s) on County property(ies) in any proposed district exceeds \$5,000 and/or the CAO believes the assessment should be opposed or the assessment has unusual features, the CAO will make a recommendation to your Board.

### **IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS**

The Countywide Strategic Plan directs that we promote service excellence by providing the public with beneficial and responsive services (Goal 1). Delegated authority to cast ballots will allow the CAO to react quickly to support or oppose the proposed creation or extension of assessment districts and reduce administrative costs, which fills an identified need and supports this strategy.

**FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

In all cases where the benefit assessments are supported by the necessary majority of the property owners who return ballots and no exemption is sought or approved, we will continue charging the assessment(s) to the County department(s) occupying or deriving use from the assessed parcel(s). Based upon our experience since the passage of Proposition 218, these assessments typically cost the County less than \$5,000 annually per district.

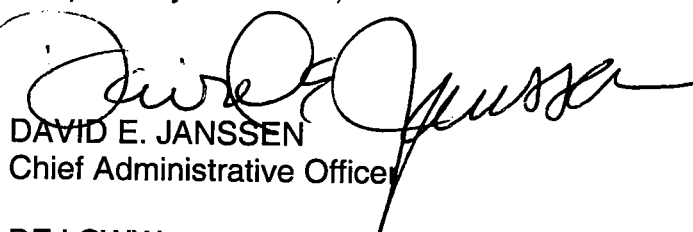
**FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

Proposition 218, approved by the voters in November 1996, requires public agencies to send ballots to all affected property owners prior to increasing or imposing a new benefiting assessment. The agency cannot increase an assessment or impose a new assessment if a majority of the ballots returned oppose the proposed assessment. The ballots are weighted according to their proportionate share of the total assessment. In addition, public property is no longer exempt from the assessment unless the parcels receive no special benefit.

**IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

Granting the CAO delegated authority to cast ballots concerning benefit assessments will allow the County to continue its participation in the balloting process on issues that impact County agencies and services while reducing the associated administrative costs.

Respectfully submitted,



DAVID E. JANSSEN  
Chief Administrative Officer

DEJ:CWW

SDH:RC:dg

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

County Counsel

Auditor-Controller

All Other Departments

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